

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An approach is provided for managing network device configuration data by functional area. Functional areas supported by a network device are determined. A determination is also made whether a client and the network device support compatible configuration application program interfaces (APIs) for each functional area supported by the network device. User interface objects are generated and displayed on a graphical user interface (GUI). Each user interface object corresponds to one of the functional areas that is supported by the network device and for which the client and network device have compatible configuration APIs. A set of bulk editing functions allows changes to be readily made to multiple configuration data objects and to facilitate creating new configuration data objects.